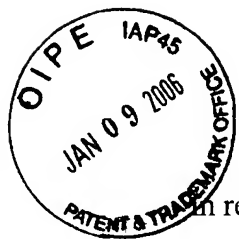


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03560.003396

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MAKOTO SHIOYA

Application No.: 10/714,640

Filed: November 18, 2003

For: RECORDING METHOD AND
RECORDING APPARATUS
CAPABLE OF REDUCING STREAKS)
AND UNEVENNESS IN IMAGE
DENSITY

)
:
Examiner: L.D. Nguyen

)
:
Group Art Unit: 2861

)
:
January 9, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed December 9, 2005.

In the action, it was alleged that the claims of Groups I and II are distinct because they are related as process and apparatus for its practice. This allegation is respectfully traversed. It is submitted that the amount of effort required by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office would be lessened by permitting all of the claims presently in the application to be prosecuted in a single application. The alternative is to proceed with the filing of another application, consisting of the same disclosure, and being subjected to substantially the same search, perhaps by a different Examiner on a different occasion, with the resultant burden on the

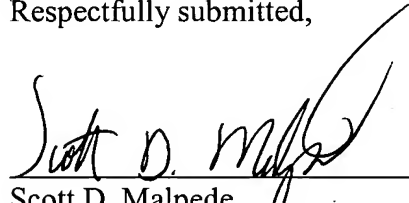
Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the requirement for restriction and allow the claims presently in the application to be prosecuted in a single application.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.143, Applicant provisionally elects the claims of Group I, namely Claims 1-6, 17-21 and 22-25.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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